THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The United States had lifted the sanctions against India in September 2001. India and the United States signed a Statement of Principles to promote and facilitate bilateral high technology commerce, including trade in 'dual use' goods and technologies, on 05 February 2003 in Washington D.C.

(b) The Statement of Principles outlines a number of steps to be taken by the two countries, including the U.S. intention to address the regulatory and policy issues relating to exports of U.S. "dual use" goods and technologies to India, to broadly advance bilateral high technology commerce.

(c) The India-U.S. High Technology Cooperation Group will facilitate and undertake promotional activities, review regulatory issus in the two countries and generate awareness among the government and private sector agencies on both sides about opportunities for high technology commerce and associated regulatory environment.

(d) The United States has lifted sanctions against Pakistan, including those imposed on it for the 1998 nuclear tests and the 1999 military coup. Government is not aware of a similar Statement of Principles being signed between Pakistan and the United States. The U.S. bilateral financial aid for Pakistan in the U.S. fiscal years 2001 to 2003 is around U.S. $1.7 billion and is likely to be enhacned by another US $200 million in the current U.S. fiscal year.

Permanent membership of Security Council

3007. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent NAM Summit at Kaula Lumpur the question of permanent membership of the UN Security Council to India was discussed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof, indicating the precise case made out by India and the majority response of the NAM Summit; and

(c) what other steps have been taken by Government for securing permanent membership of the UN Security Council and response of the world powers thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is growing momentum in support of India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Many developed and developing countries, including some permanent members of the UN Security Council, have indicated support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council in the UN and/or bilaterally. The issue of support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council is taken up with all countries, including permanent members of the Security Council in various meeting, visits etc.

Infiltration by Pakistan

3008. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agree that there is continuing Pakistan support to infiltration across the line of control (LoC);

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any new steps to curb infiltration;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) what impact infiltration would have on the peace prospects in the country; and

(e) to what extent the infiltration has been curbed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Government have taken appropriate security and other measures on the ground to deal with infiltration. Necessary steps have also been taken to apprise the international community of Pakistan's continuing support for and sponsorship of cross-border infiltration and